

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-11 and 17 have been canceled, without prejudice.

Claims 12-16 and 18-20 are pending. Claims 12-13, 15-16 and 18-20 have been withdrawn from consideration.

The presently disclosed and claimed invention relates to the genes differentially expressed in different subsets of dendritic cells (DCs).

The present inventors have discovered a set of DC-specific genes, including 63 known genes and 6 novel genes. See table 1 of the specification. As the set of DC-specific genes comprise 6 novel genes (SEQ ID NO:1 to SEQ ID NO: 6), the presently claimed invention is submitted to be patentable over the cited art.

Specially, the claims are submitted to be patentable over the cited Affymetrix (Affymetrix Data Sheet, HuGeneFL Array, released November 1998), and Fodor (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0053519), as the applicants do not believe that the specific combination of components of the claims is taught by the cited art. The applicants believe that the general teaching of the cited art is insufficient to teach the specific combination of the claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 102 rejection of claim 14 over the cited art are requested.

The claims are submitted to be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is requested. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned in the event anything further is required in this regard.

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Respectfully submitted,

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